Insurgnecy in Assam

796. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the insurgency problem is continuously increasing in North Cachar Hills and other areas of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to solve the insurgency problem in Assam;

(d) the latest development regarding the negotiation with major insurgent groups of North-East region made by Government;

(e) the details of the outcome; and

(f) if not, how Government propose to solve the increasing problem faced by the people of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) It cannot be said that the insurgency problem is increasing in North Cachar Hills and other areas of Assam.

(c) Government has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam under control. These include, interalia, deployment of additional para-military Forces and Army in the state, coordinated action by Army; Para-Military and State Police for counter insurgency operations; declaration of United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; detention of militants under NSA etc. Regular review of the situation, both at State and Central Government level is being made. This has helped to keep the situation in Assam under control.

(d) and (e) During his recent visit to Assam the Prime Minister indicated Government's willingness to discuss with the militants their legitimate grievances. But no talks have as yet taken place.

(f) Government proposes to take steps on various fronts to solve the problem faced by people of Assam. These include, interalia,

(i) counter insurgency measures to bring law and order situation under control.

(ii) discussion with various political groups like AASU Bodogroups etc. to resolve political issues.

(iii) speedier economic development of the State.

(iv) continued efforts to bring the insurgent groups to the discussion table.

Terrorism in North-East

797. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the latest rising wave of terrorist violence in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the total loss of property and number of persons who lost their lives during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to bring the terrorist outfits into the national mainstream?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It cannot be said that there is any rising wave of terrorist violence in the North Eastern States. The number of civilians and security personnel killed in North Eastern States during the last six months are given below:

State	Civilians	Security Forces
Assam	119	27
Nagaland	17	12
Manipur	41	57
Mizoram	-	-
Tripura	75	21
Meghalaya	2	2
Arunachal Pradesh	-	1

Details of loss caused to public property are not available.

(c) Government has repeatedly appealed to the various underground groups to hold talks in order to resolve the issues involved. As recently as on April 15, 1998, the Prime Minister, in his Press Statement at Guwahati had stated "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness,whether in Assam or other States of the North East, I extend an

invitation; come forward; let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution".

Caste-Based Census

798. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hold Census 2001 on Caste basis; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Liberhan Commission

799. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Liberhan Commission appointed and what is its constitution;

(b) the details of terms and reference of the Commission and by when it will submit its report;

(c) whether his attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Babri Panel dismayed over Government in action" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 10th May 1998; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry consisting of Justice MS Liberhan only was set up on 16-12-1992.

(b) The terms & reference of the Commission are to make an inquiry with respect to the following matters:—

(a) The sequence of events leading to, and all the facts and circumstance relating to, the occurrences in the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex at Ayodhya on 6th December 1992 involving the destruction of the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure;

(b) The role played by the Chief Minister, Members of the Council of Ministers, officials of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and by the individuals, concerned organisations and agencies in, or in connection with, the destruction of the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure;

(c) The deficiencies in security measures and other arrangements as prescribed or operated in practice by the Government of Uttar Pradesh which might have contributed to the events that took place in the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid complex, Ayodhya town and Faizabad on 6th December, 1992;

(d) The sequence of events leading to, and all the facts and circumstances relating to, the assault on media persons at Ayodhya on 6th December, 1992; and

(e) Any other matters related to the subject of Inquiry.

As per the Notification No. S.O. 247(E) dated 26.3.98, the present tenure of the Commission is upto 30th June, 1998 and the Commission is expected to submit its report upto that period.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As directed by the Commission on 11.12.1997, Government has already filed an application on 17-12-1997 before the Lucknow Bench to clarify whether the stay order which was vacated on 15.5.97 has been restored on 23.7.97 alongwith the Writ Petitions. In order to expedite the matter, another application has also been filed in March, 1998.

Custodial Deaths

800. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of custodial deaths, including deaths caused by harassment and ill-treatment at the hands of investigating and efforcement agencies in Delhi and other parts of the country during 1997 and 1998;

(b) the number and details of cases which have been registered with National Human Rights Commission and other Human Rights bodies; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such deaths